


IN THE SPECIFICATION

At page 104 (abstract). Line 2:

~~An apparatus having a pipeline having a series of stages. At least one of the pipeline stages has a first interface for coupling to a memory that stores input capacity information for a packet. The input capacity information is obtainable from the packet's packet header information. At least one of the pipeline stages has a second interface that receives packet size information, a third interface that receives the input capacity information and comparison logic coupled to the second and third interfaces.~~

 ~~A method that involves presenting packet header information and packet size information to one or more pipeline stages where the packet header information and the packet size information correspond to a packet. Then, determining within a stage associated with the pipeline, with the packet header information, input capacity for the packet. Then, comparing within a stage associated with the pipeline, the input capacity with the packet size. Then, indicating from a stage associated with the pipeline whether the packet is conforming or non-conforming based upon the comparison.~~

A method is described that involves presenting packet header information from a packet and packet size information for the packet to a pipeline that comprises multiple stages. One of the stages identifies, with the packet header information, where input flow information for the packet is located. The input flow information is then fetched. The input flow information identifies where input capacity information for the packet is located and the input capacity information is

then fetched. Another of the stages compares an input capacity for the packet with the packet's size and indicates whether the packet is conforming or non-conforming based upon the comparison. The input capacity is calculated from the input capacity information.
